



**TESTIMONY
BOB MACCA
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

**RE: OPPOSE – SB-940 - AN ACT CONCERNING CT TECHNICAL HIGH
SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TUITION**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes SB-940, which would double the amount of tuition that can be charged for apprenticeship classes at the state's Technical High Schools.**

Apprenticeship has long been recognized as the best method for preparing workers for employment in the skilled trades. Unfortunately, it has been increasingly difficult to attract young people to pursue careers in the skilled trades, which generally requires a four or five-year apprenticeship as well as related classroom instruction.

PHCC is concerned that doubling the fees for apprenticeship instruction will stifle job growth in our industry – jobs that provide excellent wage and benefit packages for individuals. In order to create a steady supply of skilled tradespersons to meet the demand for workers in the construction trades and benefit our overall economy, Connecticut must continue to encourage and support apprenticeship training.

We therefore urge lawmakers to reject efforts to double the fees for apprenticeship program tuition.

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the State of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.